

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06249 062315Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7409
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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(CORRECTED COPY - LINE SEVEN PARA ONE PREVIOUSLY OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV AKB
SUBJECT: INTRA-BERLIN TRAVEL BY CHIEFS OF MILITARY
MISSIONS

REFS: (A) USBER 736; (B) BONN 5590

1. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES USBER'S THOROUGH RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRECEDENTS (OR LACK THEREOF) FOR TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN BY PERSONNEL OF WESTERN MILITARY MISSIONS. WE HAVE GIVEN A SANITIZED COPY OF REFTEL (A) TO THE DUTCH EMBASSY, WHICH ALSO EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION. AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN AGREES WITH USBER'S RECOMMENDATION AND PLANS TO EXIT WEST BERLIN AT DREWITZ, TAKING THE ROUND-ABOUT ROUTE TO EAST BERLIN ON THE BERLINER RING.

2. THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAS, HOWEVER, RAISED A NEW PROBLEM. IT HAS INFORMED THE DUTCH EMBASSY HERE THAT IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN'S PASSPORT TO THE GDR VOPOS FOR
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PAGE 02 BONN 06249 062315Z

REGISTRATION IF HE IS TO REMAIN OVERNIGHT, FEELING CERTAIN THAT IF THIS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT WERE NOT OBSERVED THE EMBASSY WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE CALLED ON THE CARPET BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES. THE DUTCH UNDERSTAND THAT THE VOPOS DO PUT A REGISTRATION STAMP IN THE PASSPORT. WHILE THIS WOULD NOT BE A BORDER CROSSING STAMP, THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAS

RAISED THE VERY GOOD QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR THE HEAD OF A MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN TO RECEIVE A STAMP INDICATING THAT GDR AUTHORIZATION TO REMAIN IN THE EASTERN SECTOR WAS REQUIRED.

3. THE DUTCH DCM HERE HAS ASKED ON AN URGENT BASIS WHETHER WE HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON THAT PARTICULAR PROBLEM. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR WILL BE UNAVAILABLE AFTER NOON FRIDAY, APRIL 7, AND WILL BE FLYING TO WEST BERLIN ON SUNDAY, APRIL 9.

4. COMMENT. WE THINK THE DUTCH IN EAST BERLIN HAVE RAISED A VERY GOOD QUESTION, THE ONLY SAFE ANSWER TO WHICH IS THAT THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, AS CHIEF OF THE NETHERLANDS MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN, SHOULD SKIRT THE ISSUE BY NOT REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN EAST BERLIN. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD HE WOULD ACCEPT A RECOMMENDATION TO THAT EFFECT IF WE WERE TO MAKE IT. THE DUTCH DCM HERE HAS STATED THAT THE DUTCH WOULD NOT WISH TO BE THE CAUSE FOR A GDR CLAIM OF HAVING MADE ANOTHER INROAD ON THE QUADRIPARTITE STATUS OF BERLIN. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER THAT RISK IS VERY GREAT AND WHETHER CALLING UPON THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO REFRAIN FROM OVERNIGHTING IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE WORTH IT IN TERMS OF WHAT WE WOULD BE GAINING BY WAY OF SAFEGUARDING THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.
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PAGE 03 BONN 06249 062315Z

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS USBER OR THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS (BONN TIME) FRIDAY, APRIL 7.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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